

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1776

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AD KADENA

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAFO MACHINATO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USPAV KADENA AB

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: SCUL, ASEC, PINT, JA

SUBJECT: CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT TO EXPO

SUMMARY. EFFORTS BY OKINAWAN LEFTISTS TO ORGANIZE A MOVEMENT

AGAINST CROWN PRINCE AKAHITO'S VISIT TO OPEN EXPO HAVE BEEN

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SINGULARLY INEFFECTIVE. FEARS OF VIOLENCE AND GOVERNOR YARA'S

WISHES IMPORTANT FACTORS. FRINGE TERRORISM STILL POSSIBLE.

END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OKINAWAN LEFTIST FRONT
GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR OPPOSITION TO
CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT IN PRINCIPLE, THEY HAVE DONE LITTLE TO
ORGANIZE ANY SIGNIFICANT POPULAR MOVEMENT AGAINST IT. THE LABOR
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UNIONS -- GOVT WORKERS, MILITARY BASE WORKERS, AND PRESS WORKERS --

ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION, BUT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FEDERATION, KENROKYO, DECIDED NOT TO ORGANIZE AN "OPPOSITION STRUGGLE." THE SOCIALIST ANTI-H BOMB COUNCIL GENSUIKYO ALSO STATED ITS OPPOSITION EARLIER, BUT NOW UNOFFICIALLY SAYS IT WILL NOT ORGANIZE A RALLY. JCP SPOKESMAN SENAGA SAID THE PARTY WAS CRITICAL OF THE CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT BUT WOULD NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST IT. THE OKINAWA TEACHERS UNION VOTED OPPOSITION BY A BARE MAJORITY, BUT ONLY AFTER ITS CHAIRMAN WAS ASSAULTED BY A RIGHTIST.

2. GOVERNOR YARA'S STATEMENT AGAINST EFFORTS TO EMBARRASS THE CROWN PRINCE (NAHA 331) PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN DAMPENING ENTHUSIASM AMONG LOCAL REFORMIST GROUPS FOR A MOVEMENT

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AGAINST THE CROWN PRINCE. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, INDICATIONS THAT RADICAL LEFTISTS OR RIGHTISTS MIGHT UNDERTAKE TERRORISM OR OTHER VIOLENCE DURING THE CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT APPARENTLY AROUSED FEARS AMONG THE MUCH LARGER NON-VIOLENT LEFT THAT IT MIGHT BE TAGGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY IF A SERIOUS OR TRAGIC INCIDENT TOOK PLACE. THE ORDINARY LEFT DOES NOT WANT TO BE TARRED WITH THE SAME BRUSH AS THE RADICALS. THE UNWILLINGNESS OF EACH OF THE LARGER FRONT GROUPS OR UNIONS TO GET OUT IN FRONT IN THE PROTEST HAS INHIBITED ALL OF THEM, AS HAS A BELATED REALIZATION THAT THE LOCAL POPULACE MIGHT NOT EASILY SUPPORT A MOVEMENT AGAINST THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

3. THERE IS STILL A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT RADICAL LEFT OR RIGHT WING ACTIVISTS MAY TRY TO STAGE A TERRORIST INCIDENT INVOLVING THE CROWN PRINCE, PRIME MINISTER MIKI, OR JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL SAKATA, OR DIRECTED AT EXPO OR EVEN A U.S. INSTALLATION OR OFFICIAL. ELEMENTS OF BOTH HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON THE ISLAND, AND WITH THE FOCUS ON THE EXPO OPENING AND THE REPORTS THAT "SOMETHING" MAY HAPPEN, IT SEEMS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT THEY WILL TRY "SOMETHING." THE POLICE WILL BE HERE IN STRENGTH, BUT THERE STILL REMAINS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE TERRORISTS WILL BE ABLE TO MOUNT AN INCIDENT.

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